

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 5779
OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS**

Add at the end the following:

1 SEC. 7. PROTECT MEDICARE.

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Medicare represent a commitment made by
4 this country decades ago to honor the dignity and
5 independence of senior citizens and disabled citizens.

6 (2) Medicare protects 63.9 million senior citi-
7 zens and persons with disabilities from potentially
8 catastrophic health care costs.

9 (3) Despite the importance of this program in
10 guaranteeing health security for seniors and persons
11 with disabilities, without new revenue, the Hospital
12 Insurance trust fund is expected to become insolvent
13 in 2031.

14 (4) The Medicare Trustees project that Medi-
15 care expenditures will increase in future years at a
16 faster pace than either aggregate workers' earnings
17 or the economy overall and that, as a percentage of
18 GDP, spending will increase from 3.7 percent in
19 2022 to 6.1 percent by 2097.

1 (5) Given the bedrock importance of this pro-
2 gram, we must reject policies that eliminate the
3 Medicare guarantee of a specific set of health bene-
4 fits, convert Medicare into a voucher or premium
5 support program, increase costs for seniors and per-
6 sons with disabilities, or weaken the traditional
7 Medicare program.

8 (6) We must enact policies to strengthen the
9 traditional Medicare program and extend its sol-
10 vency, for example by enacting proposals in the FY
11 2024 President's Budget.

12 (b) POLICY ON PROTECTING MEDICARE FOR SEN-
13 IORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.—The Fiscal
14 Commission shall propose recommendations to strengthen
15 and secure Medicare by—

16 (1) protecting the traditional Medicare pro-
17 gram; and

18 (2) extending Medicare solvency, which may in-
19 clude—

20 (A) requiring taxpayers with incomes above
21 \$400,000 to contribute more to Medicare; and

22 (B) closing a tax loophole that allows
23 wealthy owners of pass-through businesses with

- 1 more than \$400,000 in annual income to avoid
- 2 Medicare taxes.

